

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1118

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

February 21, 2003

An act to add Section 5089 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1118, as introduced, Levine. Vehicles: special interest license plates: Humane Society: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue special interest license plates to a person applying for the plates and paying certain fees. The plates contain a distinct design or decal of the participating organization and may be displayed in lieu of regular license plates. Existing law prohibits the department from issuing a special interest license plate until the participating organization has received and submitted to the department not less than 7,500 applications for that particular plate within certain time limitations.

This bill would require the department, in consultation with the Humane Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to design and make available for issuance special interest license plates. The bill would require the issuance to be as required under existing law, except that notwithstanding existing law, the plates would contain a full-plate graphic design depicting a dog or a cat, or both a dog and a cat, and would be issued in a combination of numbers or letters, or both, as requested by the applicant for the plates. The bill would require certain funds generated from the issuance of the special interest license plates to be deposited in the Animal Shelter License Plate Account, which the bill would establish in the General Fund. The

bill would require the money in the account to be allocated by the Controller, upon appropriation by the Legislature, in the amount of 50% to the Humane Society and 50% to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The bill would require the money to be used only for the operation of animal shelters and clinics in California. The bill would require the 2 organizations receiving the money to report to the Legislature regarding their use of the money, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5089 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:

3 5089. (a) The department, in consultation with the Humane
4 Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
5 shall design and make available for issuance special interest
6 license plates. The issuance shall be as required under this article,
7 except that notwithstanding Section 5060, the plates shall contain
8 a full-plate graphic design depicting a dog or a cat, or both a dog
9 and a cat, and may be issued in a combination of numbers or letters,
10 or both, as requested by the applicant for the plates. A person
11 described in Section 5101, upon payment of the additional fees set
12 forth in subdivision (b), may apply for and be issued a set of the
13 special interest license plates described in this subdivision.

14 (b) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration, a
15 renewal of registration, or a transfer or substitution of the license
16 plates, the following additional fees shall be paid for the issuance,
17 renewal, retention, transfer, or substitution of the special interest
18 license plates authorized under this section:

19 (1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars (\$50).

20 (2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars
21 (\$40).

22 (3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars
23 (\$15).

24 (4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars
25 (\$35).

26 (c) After deducting its administrative costs under this section,
27 the department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from
28 the issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the special



1 interest license plates into the Animal Shelter License Plate
2 Account, which is hereby established in the General Fund. Upon
3 appropriation by the Legislature, the funds in the account shall be
4 allocated by the Controller as follows, and may be used only for
5 the operation of animal shelters and clinics in California:

6 (1) Fifty percent to the Humane Society.

7 (2) Fifty percent to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to
8 Animals.

9 (d) On or before June 30 of the year after the first year funds are
10 allocated under subdivision (c), and on or before each June 30
11 thereafter, each organization that expends those funds shall report
12 to the Legislature regarding the organization's use of the funds.

